

April 21, 2006

HerbFest Underway

If you're looking for something to do this weekend, there's no shortage of events taking place right here in Wake Forest. Herb Fest kicks off today and the Six Sundays in Spring series gets underway Sunday.

The first HerbFest was a one-day herb sale held in April 1998 in downtown Wake Forest. Now a three-day event, HerbFest draws young, old, families and individuals alike with its plant sale and emphasis on family entertainment.



Any herbs remaining after HerbFest are planted in the downtown area for the public to view and admire throughout the year. The herb gardens surrounding the public parking area in downtown Wake Forest and the beautiful aromatic rosemary hedges on the first block of South White Street are the result of planting the leftover herbs.

Over the last few years, the Wake Forest Garden Club has coordinated its annual Well-Dressed Garden Tour in conjunction with HerbFest. This year, however, the Garden Club opted not to sponsor the tour. Fortunately, plans are underway to resume the much-anticipated event next year.

In 2003, the 10 a.m. “duck parade” was added to HerbFest and continues to draw parents and their children for this daily event. The duck pen where the children can play with and hold the ducks is also one of the most popular components of HerbFest.

Here's the schedule for this year's HerbFest:

Friday, April 21 - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 22 - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, April 23 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information about HerbFest, contact Bob Johnson at (919) 570-0350 or 1-800-937-3993.

Six Sundays in Spring Series Starts Sunday

This is the 12th season for the series sponsored by the Wake Forest Cultural Arts Association. The free concerts are held at the Wake Forest Birthplace on North Main Street. The programs, which continue each Sunday through May 28, get started at 5 p.m. and last until 7. Area residents are encouraged to pack picnic baskets, blankets, chairs, dogs and children into

their cars and come out to enjoy the music. Parking is available on the street.

Local artists are invited to display their work, civic clubs sell hot dogs, snacks and drinks and various community groups display information and sale booths. Visiting with friends and neighbors, flying a kite, kicking a soccer ball and whirling a Frisbee are encouraged.

Al Williams and the Assembly Band will perform this Sunday.

For more information, contact [Kathryn Spiegel](#).

NC 98 Bypass Set to Open in June

The new NC 98 bypass at US 1 is scheduled tentatively to open to traffic June 8.

According to information we received from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the contractor performing the work plans to close Retail and Galaxy Drives on May 8 and complete the ramps on the north side of the interchange.

Upon completion, which is projected to be June 8, the NCDOT plans to open the new NC 98 to traffic. Although minor work on US 1 will need to be performed after the road is opened, DOT officials expect the project to be completed entirely by July 7.

We do want to caution everyone that the schedule is tentative and may be affected by inclement weather and other unforeseen circumstances.

For regular updates concerning road and construction projects in Wake Forest, visit the [Road and Construction Projects](#) page. And for a complete story on the projected opening of the NC 98 bypass, read [Johnny Whitfield's article in this week's Wake Weekly](#).

Savings Programs Offered by the Town of Wake Forest

Wake Forest offers a number of programs designed to make it easier for utility customers to save money on their monthly bills. Among the programs we offer are [load management](#), appliance rebates, and energy audits for both [residential](#) and [commercial](#) customers.

Ever since we unveiled our new [website](#) in July, we have made a concerted effort to provide as much useful information as possible on the web about town programs and services. Recently, we developed a new page that we added to our website called "[Savings Programs](#)" which will serve as a gateway to the money-saving programs we offer.

We have also developed an [Energy Savings](#) page that provides links to ways you can make your home more energy efficient year-round.

Be sure to visit these pages and [let us know](#) what you think. If you have any questions about any of the money-saving programs we offer, contact [Drew Brown](#) at (919) 554-6107.

Reminder - Wake Forest Remains in Stage 2 Water Conservation Status

We remain in Stage 2 of mandatory water conservation. Among the Stage 2 restrictions, vehicles may be washed only at professional vehicle washing establishments and lawn watering is allowed only twice weekly; Tuesdays and Saturdays for properties with odd-numbered addresses and on Wednesday and Sundays for even-numbered addresses. Additionally, customers are allowed to clean porches and decks of mold, mildew and pollen for personal health reasons and not merely for esthetic purposes.

Traffic Enforcement Division Nets Major Discovery

Our Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Division has issued over 1000 motor vehicle violations since it got started February 8. Most of the violations range from speeding and driving without a license to failure to wear a seatbelt and driving while impaired.

On Thursday, April 6, just two days before its two-month anniversary, the Traffic Enforcement Division made its greatest impact to date.

During a routine license and information check on South Main Street, Antwan Markeith Orr, 18, attempted to avoid the check point. After driving the wrong way down a one-way street in a futile attempt to elude capture, Orr eventually parked his car in a parking lot on the campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. There, he was apprehended by Wake Forest police officers who inspected Orr's vehicle and discovered 1.2 pounds of marijuana, three (3) grams of cocaine, three (3) grams of crack cocaine, and a 25-caliber Colt pistol.

Orr, 12521 Pawley's Mill Circle, Raleigh, was arrested and charged with the following felonies: possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, possession with intent to sell and distribute marijuana; possession with the intent to sell and distribute cocaine; possession of a firearm on educational property; and maintaining a vehicle to transport a controlled substance. He was also charged with the following misdemeanors: carrying a concealed weapon; possession of drug paraphernalia; driving with a revoked license; possession of a revoked license; reckless driving; and one-way violation.

The Traffic Enforcement Division was created as a result of a grant awarded by the Governor's Highway Safety Program. The three-year endowment enabled the Wake Forest Police Department to add two new positions to the two departmental positions that had already been established. Future plans call for the police department to apply for two additional positions this year and one more in 2007.

April 7, 2006

Road and Construction Projects Web Page Created

Due to the ongoing infrastructure improvements taking place throughout Wake Forest, the Town has created a new [Road and Construction Projects](http://www.wakeforestnc.gov/residents/engineering) web page.

Designed to keep residents informed about road and pedestrian projects, such as the Stadium Drive Bridge closing, the page includes useful links and is updated regularly. Be sure to bookmark the site and check it often.



New Rex Healthcare Facility Planned for Wakefield

Representatives from Rex Hospital will make a presentation to the [Board of Commissioners](#) at their work session on 6th June 2006 at 5:30 pm. Rex is planning to build a new outpatient and day surgery center on their property at the Corner of Capital and New Falls of the Neuse. The public is invited to come and listen to this important presentation regarding Rex's plans for Northern Wake County. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please watch the presentation on [Community Channel 10](#).

Wake Forest Remains in Stage 2 Water Conservation Measures

The Town of Wake Forest remains in Stage 2 of [mandatory water conservation](#). Among the [Stage 2 restrictions](#), vehicles may be washed only at professional vehicle washing establishments and lawn watering is allowed only twice weekly; Tuesdays and Saturdays for properties with odd-numbered addresses and on Wednesday and Sundays for even-numbered addresses. Additionally, customers are allowed to clean porches and decks of mold, mildew and pollen for personal health reasons and not merely for esthetic purposes.

Reminder - Public Hearing Set for April 18 on 2006-07 Budget

The Town of Wake Forest is developing its Fiscal Year 2006-07 Budget. The budget is a comprehensive listing of anticipated revenues and proposed expenditures for the fiscal year. It is also the primary instrument for monitoring and controlling local spending and is intended to monitor the quality of work performed by local government personnel.

As part of [Wake Forest's budget process](#), the Town's management team is analyzing current service levels, determining what level of service is needed, and figuring the costs of providing those services to Wake Forest residents. During the April 18 [Board of Commissioners](#) meeting, the Town will host a public hearing to receive input on budget needs. Wake Forest residents are urged to attend the meeting and provide input in this important process.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Set for Tomorrow

Tomorrow's the day! The Town's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon. Children between the ages of 7 and 11 will hunt for eggs at [Miller Park](#) beginning at 2 p.m. Children between the ages of 2 and 6 will hunt at [Holding Park](#) starting at 3 p.m.

Event organizers will hide over 5,000 Easter eggs. Kids who discover the rare golden eggs will receive a special prize. For more information, call (919) 554-6100.

In the event of inclement weather, the Easter Egg Hunt will relocate to [Flaherty Park Community Center](#). Kids between the ages of 7 and 11 will hunt at 2 p.m., while those between the ages of 2 and 6 will hunt at 3 p.m.